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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /092 W
----------124337 020607Z /14
R 301445Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHBC 4831
INGO RUQMGU/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 425
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1283

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, YO, BU
SUBJECT: BULGARIA REACTS NEGATIVELY TO 11TH YUGOSLAV PARTY CONGRESS OVER MACEDONIA ISSUE

REF: SOFIA 1211

1. BULGARIAN REACTION TO STATEMENTS AT RECENT LCY 11TH PARTY CONGRESS HAS BEEN SHARPLY CRITICAL. DIMITUR STANISHEV, HEAD OF BCP DELEGATION TO BELGRADE AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY, MADE POINTED REMARKS, PUBLISHED IN PARTY NEWSPAPER RABOTNICHESKO DELO JUNE 24, AGAINST CONGRESS AND YUGOSLAV PRESS FOR, ACCORDING TO STANISHEV, BIASED AND UNWARRANTED CHARGES AGAINST BCP AND BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT.
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2. PROXIMATE CAUSE OF GOB DISCONTENT LIES WITH LCY CONGRESS HANDLING OF MACEDONIAN ISSUE. USING STANDARD BULGARIAN PHRASEOLOGY THAT "THERE NEVER HAS BEEN AND THERE IS NOT TODAY A 'MACEDONIAN MINORITY' IN BULGARIA," STANISHEV CALLED ATTENTION TO JUNE 15 SPEECH BY PARTY LEADER TODOR ZHIVKOV (REFTEL) THAT CALLED FOR MEETING

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BETWEEN ZHIVKOV AND TITO TO IRON OUT DIFFERENCES OVER MACEDONIA. STANISHEV CHARGED THAT NOT ONLY HAS BELGRADE FAILED TO ANSWER ZHIVKOV'S PROPOSAL, BUT ALSO THAT THE YUGOSLAV SIDE HAS FAILED TO INFORM ITS PUBLIC OF ZHIVKOV'S OVERTURES. STANISHEV REITERATED ZHIVKOV'S CTPIM THAT BULGARIAN HAS NO TERRITORIAL CLAIMS AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA. HE REJECTED YUGOSLAVIA'S ALLEGATIONS AS AN ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE IN BULGARIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND SAID THAT SUCH CHARGES WOULD NOT FURTHER BILATERAL RELATIONS.

3. EVEN BLUNTER ARTICLE APPEARING FOLLOWING DAY IN RABOTHICHESKO DELO MADE SIMILAR POINTS AND ACCUSED YUGO-SLAVIA OF BEING THE SIDE WHICH HAD TERRITORIAL ASPIRATIONS.

4. COMMENT: ZHIVKOV JUNE 15 SPEECH DELIVERED IN BLAGOEVGRAD, CENTER OF BULGARIAN PIRIN MACEDONIA, IS BEING TREATED AS MAJOR POLICY DOCUMENT BY BULGARIANS. HOWEVER, MAIN FUNCTION OF SPEECH EVIDENTLY IS PROPAGAN-DISTIC. REMARKS WERE EXCERPTED IN MOSCOW'S PRAVDA A SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL EVENT, THEREBY LENDING EVIDENCE OF MOSCOW'S IMPRIMATUR TO THRUST OF ZHIVKOV'S STATEMENTS ON MACEDONIAN ISSUE. IN ADDITION, SPEECH WAS TO BE CIRCULATED AT UN AS EXAMPLE OF BULGARIAN EFFORTS TO REDUCE TENSIONS IN EUROPE AND OF POSITIVE STEPS TAKEN BY BULGARIA WITHIN CSCE CONTEXT.

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5. SPEECH CAN HARDLY BE EXPECTED TO ALLAY THORNY MACE-DONIAN PROBLEM AND WILL BE SEEN IN BELGRADE AGAINST BACK-DROP OF EVIDENTLY TOUGHER, MORE NATIONALISTIC JUNE 16 ZHIVKOV SPEECH IN PETRICH (PARA /: REFTEL) AS WELL AS IMPLICIT AND EXPLICIT BULGARIAN CLAIMS REGARDING MACEDONIA DURING 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS LAST MARCH OF SAN STEFANO TREATY (WHICH CEDED MACEDONIA TO BULGARIA BUT WHICH WAS SUPERSEDED A FEW MONTHS LATER BY CONGRESS OF BERLIN WHICH IN TURN GAVE IT TO SERBIA).

6. UP TO NOW, BULGARIAN PRESS HAS SHOWN CONSIDERABLE RESTRAINT IN FACE OF WHAT GOB LEADERSHIP CAN ONLY REGARD AS PROVOCATIONS FROM BELGRADE. BULGARIAN PRESS HAS GENERALLY CHOSEN TO REFUTE YUGOSLAV PRESS ATTACKS IN LARGELY MODERATE TONES, FOR EXAMPLE, BY PUBLISHING NEGATIVE ARTICLES ON YUGOSLAV HOUSING SHORTAGES AND INFLATION BUT AVOIDING DIRECT CRITICISM OF GOY. WITH CONCILIATORY ZHIVKOV SPEECH AT ITS DISPOSAL, GOB MAY FEEL THAT IT IS IN BETTER POSITION TO RESPOND TO YUGOSLAV ATTACKS AS THE AGGRIEVED PARTY, AND MAY BE MORE WILLING TO TAKE PROPAGANDA OFFENSIVE IN FUTURE.
GARTHOFF

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